

# Washington Parish



*“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”*

**Healthy People 2010**

## Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Washington	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
<b>ECONOMICS, 2000</b>				
% All persons in poverty	24.7%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	32.6%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	8.2%	7.3%	5.8%	--
<b>EDUCATION 2002-2003</b>				
School Expenditure per Student	\$7,149	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.6%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	3.4%	7.0%	--	--
<b>MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002</b>				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	13.0	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	82.1%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	78.0%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	10.7%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	19.2%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	0.0	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	359.7	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	257.3	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	2.2*	5.8	5.1	1.0
<b>STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Heart	332.5	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	261.4	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	80.3	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	100.9	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	52.7	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003</b>				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	16.4	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	2.6	2.1	1.5	0.8
<b>HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004</b>				
	<b>Region 9</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>HP 2010</b>
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	26.9%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	25.2%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	72.8%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	82.4%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	59.6%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

### Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (\*\*Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EMS/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

**History<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Washington Parish, organized on March 6, 1819, was named after the country's first president. At one time, this Florida parish had one of the finest forests of long-leaf yellow pine in the world. Much has been cut and has been reforested for a perpetual supply. Historic Mile Branch Settlement in Franklinton, Indian and Pioneer Museums of Cassidy park in Bogalusa, the beautiful Bogue Chitto and Pearl Rivers, flora and fauna farms, specialty restaurants, Mardi Gras, Dogwood Tour, Watermelon Festival, 4th of July celebration, Festival in the Park (Spring and Fall), Washington Parish Free Fair, Mile Branch Pioneer Christmas and lighted Christmas in the Park. These and more are guaranteed to attract you to the laid-back life in this rural parish.



**Parish Seat<sup>3</sup>** .....Franklinton

**Major Cities** (population over 5,000)

- Bogalusa

**Parish Population<sup>4</sup>**

2000.....	43,926
2003 (estimate) .....	43,947
2000 Population of Race	
White.....	67.4%
African-American .....	31.5%
Some other race.....	1.0%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race) .....	0.8%
2000 Population of Age	
Under 5 years .....	7.2%
5-14 .....	14.7%
15-17 .....	4.9%
18-19 .....	2.8%
20-24 .....	6.7%
25-64 .....	49.4%
65 & over .....	14.3%

**Geography and Statistics<sup>5</sup>**

Average elevation .....	129ft.
Land area in square miles .....	670
Water area in square miles .....	6.4

**Climate**

## Average temperatures

Annual .....	66.4°
January .....	59°
July .....	92°
Annual average rainfall .....	61.7 inches

**Labor Force (2001)<sup>6</sup>**

## Washington Parish

Civilian.....	15,194
Employed .....	14,033
Unemployed.....	1,161
Unemployment.....	7.6%

## Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed .....	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate .....	4.8%

**Colleges/Universities** (within one hour commute)

- Southeastern Louisiana University

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information  
<<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary  
<[http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF\\_Parishes\\_2000-Present.xls](http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls)>.